

REMARKS

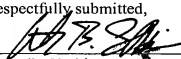
The only issue outstanding in the Office Action mailed August 29, 2007, is the rejection of claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C § 102(b)/103 over Scholten '281. Reconsideration of this rejection in view of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 is directed to a process for manufacturing a polyamide object by sintering polyamide powders, said powders resulting from the process of claim 1. It is argued, at page 2 of the Office Action, that this claim is a product-by-process claim, not requiring the process steps of claim 1. Assuming, *arguendo*, that this is true, the process is still novel and non-obvious over the reference, which does not disclose the production of a product, nor a product itself, having the features of the product employed in process claim 7 herein. The powder employed by Scholten is one known *per se* and prepared conventionally, e.g., by dissolving polyamide in ethanol and allowing it to crystallize out under conditions which give a desired particle size, see column 3, lines 52-56. Such a dissolution/precipitation process removes impurities, which are dissolved in the ethanol, thus improving the melting temperature of the material. However, the present process does not necessarily remove impurities, but in fact changes the crystallinity of the polymer. Crystallinity of the polymer is modified by swelling of the polyamide subsequent to treatment with water at a temperature close to the crystallization temperature of the polyamide, which allows the chains of the polymer to move and be reorganized. Such a change in crystallinity is reflected by a change in the melting temperature and/or ΔH_f . Thus, treatment with ethanol according to Scholten is not a process which produces the same product employed in Applicant's Claim 7. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Moreover, newly added Claim 10 recites a process for manufacturing polyamide objects that does use the process steps of allowable claim 1. This claim is therefore also allowable.

In conclusion, it is submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance, and passage to issue is respectfully requested. However, should the examiner have any further questions or comments, she is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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